



EAA Chapter 827
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www.eaa827.org

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Presidents Column

The January meeting was one of the most productive we have had in many months. I won't go into the details here because you can read all about it in the minutes. Thanks to Jim McCurdy for providing a WARM meeting place and for the very interesting tour of his facility.

If you ever chance to be driving down I-95 in Savannah don't fail to stop at the Eighth Air Force museum located right beside the highway. I did not know it existed until I drove by. Made time to stop in and found it was very much more than I expected. No detail has been overlooked, right down to a replica of the inside of a typical European farmhouse where downed aviators might be hidden while they made their way back to England.

Got an e-mail last week from a young man who was looking for someone who had an aircraft on skis. His mission was to go up to Sebec Lake and spread out evergreen branches spelling out "Will you marry me" on the ice in front of his girlfriends camp. I told him to call John and wished him luck both in finding someone and the other thing too.

The meeting last month brought out a strong interest in renovating the space at the south end of the hanger into a permanent meeting room. I haven't measured, but there is at least four times the square footage there than we have in the cramped space we have been using at the north end. Wiring needs to be sorted out and the space insulated, then the kitchen appliances moved. So far three members have contributed a total of \$350 toward this project. We would welcome donations if you happen to have a couple bucks hanging around in an old coffee can. Send your donation to Treasurer Coffey, or better yet hand it to him at our banquet on the 28th.

Speaking of the banquet, don't forget it is pot luck. A group of 10 or 12 teenagers will be providing the after dinner entertainment and they have been invited to eat with us, so whatever you bring, bring lots of it.

Jim Corliss

Monthly Chapter Meeting Dates, Times and Locations:

Chapter Meeting - This month's meeting will be the annual winter banquet held once again at the Snowmobile Club in Hampden on Saturday the 28th from 6:00 to 9:00pm

Wagabond Builder's Group - Most Wednesdays nights from 6:00 to approximately 9:30. Call Don Hansen for more info.

Annual Winter Banquet:

This month will be the annual winter banquet. This year it will once again be held at the Hampden Snowmobile club from 6:00pm until 9:00pm or when ever people decide to go home. Like past years this one will also be a pot-luck style affair. If anyone hasn't been there before and would like directions please contact me using the information below. Hope to see you there!

Joel Keller 951-2887
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Ethanol -Free Fuel in Maine:

To all Maine Pilots and Interested Parties....

I have set up a NEW Yahoo Group specifically for Maine Pilots and Interested Parties who want to follow and discuss the effort to find an alternative Ethanol Free supply of auto fuel for our aircraft. You can access the group at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maineethanolfreeautogas/>

If you become a member of this group you will always have the most up to date information on what is going on. I will also continue to try to periodically send out emails like this one for others who don't want to join etc. However, I would encourage you to join the Yahoo Group. If you have any other people who may not be on this email list but might be interested, send me their email or have them sign up with the Yahoo group. Hopefully, we will have a solution this Spring some time.

Keep 'Em Flying..

Mike Willey
Central Maine Regional Airport Pilots

In the News ...

NTSB examines the air medical industry

(from AOPA)

According to the NTSB, 35 people have died in air medical helicopter crashes since February 2008. Through Feb. 6, the board took testimony from industry experts and operators with the goal of making safety improvement recommendations to the FAA. Some of the issues that were discussed were poor weather decisions by pilots, outdated technology, and insufficient training. Also discussed were solutions to help reverse the alarming accident trend. Terrain awareness and warning systems, night vision goggles, and better flight-risk evaluation methods were among the top suggestions.

Continental Motors recalls 9,600 cylinder heads

(from AOPA)

Continental Motors is making a voluntary recall at its own expense of 9,600 cylinder heads used on Continental 520-, 550-, and O-470 series engines. The recall was made when inspections of aircraft with 400 or more hours were found to have cracks on top and at the spark plug locations. All the engines affected are six-cylinder engines. Continental will pay for parts and labor and replace the cylinders over the next year.

Cessna, Hawker Beechcraft Announce New Rounds of Layoffs

(from Flying eNewsletter)

The general aviation manufacturing segment continues to be pummeled by the current economic crisis. Last week, Cessna announced another 2,000 pink slips will be distributed, bringing the total to 4,600 since the country's financial downturn began. Most of the new layoffs will be in Wichita. Cessna has suffered mightily from canceled orders, with a reported \$64 million drop in fourth-quarter 2008 revenues compared with the same period in 2007. Across town, Hawker Beechcraft Corp. (HBC) announced an additional 2,300 layoffs are imminent, adding to the 490 job losses announced earlier. The new layoffs represent a quarter of HBC's overall workforce.

Cessna puts new tail on SkyCatcher

(from AOPA)

Following the loss of a prototype Cessna SkyCatcher light sport aircraft last year, Cessna has increased the size of the tail and reduced its rearward sweep, giving the aircraft a slightly different look. The pilot in the accident safely landed by parachute, but the aircraft was destroyed. Wind tunnel tests using a vertical tunnel facility in Germany have confirmed the SkyCatcher now has no unrecoverable spin characteristics. The larger-tail design first flew Dec. 15, 2008, according to Neal Wilford, project engineer on the SkyCatcher. Deliveries are scheduled to begin the last half of 2009. The first aircraft assembly at Shenyang Aircraft Corp. in Shenyang, China, will take place between April and June.

Wagabond Builder's Group

This month work continues on the fuselage sheet metal. The latest progress saw the drilling and fitting of the right half of the boot cowl.

Below: The boot cowl as viewed from the front.

